

## Message Text

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42

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 ISO-00 IO-14 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01

PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19 NEA-10 DRC-01

/177 W

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R 241215Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 634

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY LISBON

USMISSION NEW YORK

AMCONSUL LUANDA

AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRASILIA 8001

DEPARTMENT REPEAT AS DESIRED

E.9. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR BR PO BU IV

SUBJECT: GUINEA-BISSAU: IVORAIAN REQUEST FOR BRAZILIAN GOOD  
OFFICES

BEGIN SUMMARY: DURING OFFICIAL VISIT BRAZIL, IVORY COAST  
FONMIN USHER REQUESTED THAT BRAZIL SEEK ACTIVE ROLE AS  
MEDIATOR IN GUINEA-BISSAU DISPUTE. BRAZILIAN FOREIGN  
MINISTRY SEIZED ON OPPORTUNITY MAKE PUBLIC ITS DESIRE  
THAT PORTUGAL MOVE TOWARD INDEPENDENCE FOR AFRICAN TERRI-  
TORIES. END SUMMARY.

1. DURING PRESS CONFERENCE NOVEMBER 6, USHER STATED THAT,  
ALTHOUGH HE COULD NOT SPEAK FOR AFRICAN BLOC IN REQUESTING  
BRAZILIAN MEDIATION, HE DID HAVE FULL AUTHORITY TO DO SO  
FROM GOVERNMENT IVORY COAST, WHICH DETERMINED EXHAUST ALL  
AVENUES DIPLOMATIC ACTIVITY GUINEA-BISSAU DISPUTE IN  
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ORDER AVOID RECOURSE TO VIOLENCE. JOINT COMMUNIQUE ISSUED

EVENING NOVEMBER 6 CITES "RIGHT OF PEOPLES TO SELF-DETERMINATION AND INDEPENDENCE," FIRST USAGE THIS FORMULA BY BRAZIL IN CONTEXT PORTUGUESE AFRICA. NATIONAL MEDIA RAN STRONG COVERAGE USHER VISIT WITH SPECIAL ATTENTION TO SIGNIFICANCE OF CHANGE BRAZILIAN PUBLIC POSITION. STORIES OBVIOUSLY DREW ON OFFICIAL SOURCES.

2. EMBASSY OFFICER MET WITH CHIEF, FOREIGN OFFICE DEPARTMENT OF AFRICAN AFFAIRS (AMB MURTINHO) NOVEMBER 14 TO DISCUSS RESULTS OF USHER VISIT. MURTINHO, WHO HAD JUST RETURNED FROM ESCORTING USHER DURING LATTER'S TOUR BRAZIL, EMPHASIZED THAT USHER VISIT HAD NOT RESULTED IN CHANGE BRAZILIAN POLICY TOWARD PORTUGAL IN AFRICA BUT HAD GIVEN FOREIGN OFFICE OPPORTUNITY MAKE ITS VIEWS PUBLIC. USE OF WORD "INDEPENDENCE" IN JOINT COMMUNIQUE INTENDED PUT PORTUGAL ON NOTICE OF SERIOUSNESS DESIRE BRAZILIAN FOREIGN OFFICE FOR PORTUGUESE MOVEMENT TOWARD INDEPENDENCE AFRICAN TERRITORIES. ACCORDING MURTINHO, THIS SHOULD BE SEN IN CONJUNCTION WITH BRAZILIAN NON-PARTICIPATION UNGA FOURTH COMMITTEE VOTES ON ISSUE ATROCITIES IN MOZAMBIQUE. MURTINHO SAID FOREIGN OFFICE ANXIOUS TO WORK TOWARD ESTABLISHMENT TRIANGULAR COMMUNITY BRAZIL-PORTUGAL-AFRICA, BUT COULD NOT ACCEPT SUCH A RELATIONSHIP IF IT INCLUDED A COLONY AS ONE OF ITS ELEMENTS. FOREIGN OFFICE WOULD GLADLY UNDERTAKE ANY REASONABLE ACTION, INCLUDING ROLE AS MEDIATOR GUINEA-BISSAU, THAT WOULD TEND MOVE PORTUGAL IN DIRECTION OF ACCEPTING LUSITANIAN COMMUNITY MADE UP OF INDEPENDENT MEMBERS.

3. MURTINHO FORESAW NO IMMEDIATE PROSPECT OF ADDITIONAL PUBLIC ACTIONS ON PART BRAZIL. FOREIGN OFFICE WARY OF PUSHING PORTUGAL TOO HARD IN PUBLIC AT THIS TIME FOR FEAR OF PORTUGUESE COUNTER-CAMPAIGN AMONG LARGE POPULATION GROUP AND ELEMENTS OF GOVERNMENT SYMPATHETIC TO PORTUGAL. MURTINHO HOPED THAT PORTUGUESE WOULD NOW ENGAGE IN CONFIDENTIAL DIALOGUE WITH BRAZIL ON MEANS FOR AVOIDING ISOLATION PORTUGAL ON AFRICAN ISSUES. WITH ADMITTANCE "GOVERNMENT" OF INDEPENDENT GUINEA-BISSAU AS FULL MEMBER ORGANIZATION AFRICAN STATES, MURTINHO WOULD NOT BE UNDULY SURPRISED IF NEWLY ADMITTED MEMBER PETITIONED ORGANIZATION OFFICIALLY SEEK BRAZILIAN MEDIATION GUINEA-BISSAU.

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4. MURTINHO SPECULATED THAT US COULD NO LONGER AFFORD SUPPORT PORTUGAL IN ISOLATION IN UN. WAVE OF FEELING AGAINST PORTUGAL IN UN IS GROWING STRONGER, ESPECIALLY WITH SUPPORT OF ARAB QUID FOR AFRICAN QUO OF BREAKING RELATIONS WITH ISRAEL. CONTINUANCE OF US VOTING IN SUPPORT PORTUGAL IN UN COULD ONLY PREJUDICE ENTIRE US POSITION BLACK AFRICA, ACCORDING MURTINHO. HE CONTINUED THAT BOTH

BRAZILIAN AND US SUPPORT FOR PORTUGAL WAS ANOMALY IN VIEW STRONG HISTORIC ANTI-COLONIAL POLICIES BOTH COUNTRIES. OF COURSE, HE REALIZED THAT AZORES BASES VERY IMPORTANT TO US MIDDLE EAST STRATEGY, BUT WONDERED WHETHER COOLING-OFF IN MIDDLE EAST NEXT FEW MONTHS MIGHT ALLOW US TO FACE POSSIBLE DIFFICULTY OVER AZORES BASES IN SUPPORT OF LONG-RANGE GOALS. MURTINHO BELIEVED THE US HAD ABOUT A YEAR TO FORM A POSITION ON GUINEA-BISSAU. IN SEPTEMBER 1974, THE OAU, WITH MASSIVE SUPPORT FROM OTHER LDC'S WOULD CERTAINLY PROPOSE THE "GOVERNMENT" OF GUINEA-BISSAU FOR UN MEMBERSHIP. COULD THE US AFFORD TO VETO SUCH A MOTION?

5. AMBASSADOR HAS HAD LONG CONVERSATION WITH FOREIGN MINISTER ON PORTUGUESE AFRICAN PROBLEMS. IN ADDITION, CODEL DIGGS WAS BRIEFED BY FOREIGN MINISTER AND AMBASSADOR MURTINHO. THESE LATTER CONVERSATIONS ARE BEING REPORTED BY SEPARATE TELEGRAM AND WILL INCORPORATE OUR COMMENTS ON THIS MAJOR DEVELOPMENT IN BRAZILIAN POLICY TOWARD PORTUGAL AND AFRICA.  
CRIMMINS

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** COLONIALISM, INTERNATIONAL ARBITRATION, PRESS CONFERENCES, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION, SELFDETERMINATION  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 24 NOV 1973  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** golinofr  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1973BRASIL08001  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** n/a  
**From:** BRASILIA  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1973/newtext/t19731115/aaaaaksp.tel  
**Line Count:** 136  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE  
**Office:** ACTION ARA  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:**  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** golinofr  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 25 SEP 2001  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <25-Sep-2001 by rowellE0>; APPROVED <28-Nov-2001 by golinofr>  
**Review Markings:**

Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
30 JUN 2005

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** GUINEA-BISSAU: IVORAIAN REQUEST FOR BRAZILIAN GOOD OFFICES  
**TAGS:** PFOR, BR, PO, PU, IV, XJ  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005